

## Tuition-hike proposal included in Senate budget endorsed by Ways & Means

The Senate Ways & Means Committee on Wednesday recommended passage of a 2009-11 state operating budget that allows 14 percent annual tuition increases for resident undergraduate students at the state's public four-year colleges and universities.

The proposed budget, which also would permit 7 percent annual increases at community and technical colleges, sets aside one-seventh of the additional tuition money generated to help offset impacts on resident undergraduate students who meet financial-aid requirements.

Gov. Chris Gregoire proposed the tuition increases as a way to reduce higher education budget cuts necessitated by a precipitous drop in projected state revenues over the coming biennium.

The vote on the budget bill, SSB 5600, came after the committee voted down an amendment that would have reduced institutions' authority to waive tuition and required them to charge the full cost of instruction to students who fall behind in efforts to earn degrees.

Other higher education-related budget amendments that did pass:

- Appropriating an additional \$1.5 million for community and technical college programs that educate and train existing hospital employees.
- Directing Washington State University to minimize reductions to agricultural extension services when implementing the budget.
- Providing that State Need Grants at private colleges and universities are set at the same level as public research universities.
- Providing that the Washington Center for Undergraduate Education at The Evergreen State College continues to operate at two-thirds its current funding level.

## Senate takes the 'pathway' to financial assistance

The Senate on Tuesday passed a rebranding bill that gives state financial assistance programs a new umbrella term—Opportunity Pathway. The version passed earlier in the House labels state financial assistance programs Opportunity Grants.

Under the legislation, institutions and the Higher Education Coordinating Board are required to use an umbrella term on student tuition billing statements, financial aid award letters, and other communications.

E2SHB 2021 also phases out the Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG) as a stand-alone program as of Aug. 1, 2009. Current recipients would continue to receive their full two-year awards, but must use them by Aug. 1, 2011.

EOG would continue within the State Need Grant program. Enhanced State Need Grants, in addition to the base need award, would provide for place-bound students who have earned associate degrees, subject to appropriations specifically for this purpose.

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during the 2009  
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## Bill clarifying work-study priorities passes Legislature

A Senate bill that specifies the percentage of appropriation in the State Work Study (SWS) program that may be made available to non-resident students passed the House on a 98-0 vote Monday and has been sent to the Governor.

[See more financial aid news](#)

SHB 5044 directs the HECB to develop rules that, "to the extent practicable," limit the proportion of SWS money expended upon non-resident students to 15 percent, or a lesser amount if specified in the state budget. Current law gives priority to resident students but doesn't specify a percentage.

The 15 percent statewide cap will enable institutions to continue providing non-resident SWS support at roughly existing levels.

The bill would add spouses and dependents of active-duty military personnel stationed in Washington to the definition of resident student.

SHB 5044 also directs the HECB to encourage SWS placements in high employer- demand occupations. The work study provisions are similar to those in the House version of the bill.

"I think we can all agree that providing students with opportunities in these high-demand areas is very important," Rep. Derek Kilmer, D-Gig Harbor and the bill's prime sponsor, told the Senate Education Appropriations Committee earlier this month.

## House acts on American Indian scholarship changes

By a 65-32 vote, the House on Tuesday passed legislation allowing appropriated funds to be directly deposited into the American Indian Endowed Scholarship program without limitation.

SSB 5001 eliminates the trust fund that currently receives appropriations, and it eliminates a matching-fund requirement.

## Bill encouraging use of common on-line learning technologies passes Senate

The Senate on Thursday passed 2SHB 1946, which directs the HECB to convene a work group to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of education relative to the use of technology.

The group would include representatives from a cross section of the higher education community. It would submit a preliminary report to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2009, with a final report due a year later.

The work group would be required to:

- Investigate other states' efforts regarding online learning technologies, including personalized online student services, integrated administrative tools, shared library resources, and methods for sharing digital content, pooling and sharing online class enrollments, and ensuring quality of online programs and classes;
- Develop a process and timeline for implementing recommendations;
- Focus on statewide capability and standards;
- Identify evaluation measures;
- Conduct a comprehensive independent audit of existing information technology resources;
- Recommend strategies to reduce duplication, increase quality, and increase student access;
- Recommend governance and funding models.

The bill also encourages all institutions of higher education to use common on-line learning technologies, including those currently managed by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Provisions of the bill are null and void if specific funding is not provided in the omnibus appropriations act by June 30, 2009.

The House committee budget includes \$238,000 to implement the bill in the next biennium. The current Senate version does not contain funding.

## Bills delivered to Governor:

- [SHB 1128](#) – Changing innovation partnership zone provisions.
- [SHB 1323](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [SHB 1328](#) – Allowing public technical colleges to offer degrees that prepare students to transfer to certain bachelor degree programs.
- [HB 1394](#) - Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [HB 1474](#) – Changing border county opportunity program provisions.
- [HB 1675](#) – Changing the work experience provisions of the alternative route partnership grant program.
- [ESHB 1694](#) – Addressing fiscal matters for the 2007-2009 biennium.
- [SSB 5043](#) - Convening a work group to develop a single, coordinated student access portal for college information.
- [SSB 5044](#) - Changing work study provisions
- [ESSB 5460](#) – Reducing the administrative cost of state government during the 2007-2009 and 2009-2022 fiscal biennia.

## Bills on Senate Floor:

- [2SHB 1025](#) - Requiring disclosure of certain information relating to higher education course materials.
- [HB 1156](#) - Creating a preference in the alternative route certification program for veterans and National Guard members.
- [HB 1312](#) - Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- [2SHB 1355](#) - Establishing the opportunity internship program for high school students.
- [HB 1395](#) - Clarifying terms for workforce and economic development.
- [HB 1487](#) - Regarding resident student classification.
- [HB 1640](#) – Modifying disclosure requirements for private investment information received by the University of Washington consolidated endowment fund.
- [SHB 1943](#) - Requiring recommendations for preparation and professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce.
- [2SHB 1946](#) – Regarding higher education online technology.
- [EHB 1986](#) – Authorizing a peer mentoring pilot program at Western Washington University and a community or technical college.
- [E2SHB 2021](#) – Revitalizing student financial aid.
- [HB 2119](#)- Expanding dual credit opportunities.

- [E2SB 2227](#) – Enacting the evergreen jobs act.
- [SGA 9138](#)- Nita Rinehart
- [SGA 9015](#) – Ethelda Burke
- [SGA 9041](#) – Earl Hale

## Bills on House Floor:

- [SSB 5001](#) - Eliminating the matching fund requirement for the American Indian endowed scholarship program.
- [SSB 5172](#) – Establishing a University of Washington center for human rights.
- [SB 5173](#) - Authorizing the regional universities to confer honorary doctorate degrees.
- [SSB 5177](#) - Creating a global Asia institute within the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.
- [SSB 5276](#) - Eliminating the exclusive authority of the University of Washington and Washington State University to offer certain engineering courses.
- [SSB 5410](#) – Regarding the digital learning commons.
- [SB 5554](#) – Regarding the job skills program.
- [ESSB 5555](#) – Regarding lifelong learning accounts.
- [SSB 5734](#) – Making certain current higher education tuition-setting practices permanent.
- [SSB 5776](#) – Regarding student fees, charges and assessments.
- [E2SSB 5809](#) – Revising unemployment compensation and workforce training provisions.
- [E2SSB 5941](#)- Regarding comprehensive education data improvement systems.
- [SSCR 8404](#) – Providing for the 2008-18 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.

## Bills in House Rules:

- [SHB 1216](#) – Adopting a 2009-11 capital budget.
- [SHB 1244](#) – Making 2009-11 operating appropriations.
- [HB 2318](#) – Creating the Washington institute of aerospace technology and manufacturing studies.
- [HCR 4403](#) - Providing for the 2008-2018 state comprehensive plan for workforce training.
- [HCR 4404](#) – Commending the Higher Education Coordinating Board for its initiative to develop a higher education system plan.
- [SSB 5007](#) - Allowing public technical colleges to offer associate transfer degrees.
- [SSB 5048](#) - Providing for coordination of workforce and economic development.
- [SB 5316](#) – Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.
- [SSB 5317](#) - Clarifying the terms for workforce and economic development.